## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Internation No
PCT/IB2004/003478

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F16K31/06 F16K F16K31/08 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 F16K Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1-3,7-9US 3 758 071 A (ANDERSON V, US ET AL) X 11 September 1973 (1973-09-11) 6,12 Υ 6,12 EP 1 277 694 A (AZIONARIA COSTRUZIONI) Υ 22 January 2003 (2003-01-22) cited in the application abstract; figures EP 1 316 750 A (TGK CO LTD) Α 4 June 2003 (2003-06-04) cited in the application abstract; figures US 2002/177237 A1 (OSING JUERGEN ET AL) 1 Α 28 November 2002 (2002-11-28) cited in the application abstract; figures 18,24 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is clied to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the International search 23/02/2005 16 February 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Christensen, J Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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